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# Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
---------- 013038
R 150905Z APR 75
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0945
INFO USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0180

EXDIS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: SOVIET/US BILATERAL OF APRIL 11, 1975

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ON FRINGE OF SOCIAL OCCASION ON APRIL 11, SOVIET REP KHLESTOV RAISED WITH ME QUESTION OF HOW TO FIND WAY TO MAKE PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND MADE TWO SUGGESTIONS. HE ALSO URGED THAT BOTH SIDES NOT TAKE A PESSIMISTIC LINE AT END OF ROUND PRESS CONFERENCES AND STATED HIS CONCERN RE POTENTIAL ADVERSE EFFECT ON VIENNA TALKS OF US OPINION FAVORING HARDER LINE ON DETENTE IN VIEW OF CURRENT WORLD DEVELOPMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. SOVIET REP KHLESTOV BEGAN DISCUSSION BY REFERRING TO PROBLEM RAISED BY FACT THAT WEST HAD BEEN INSISTING STRONGLY THAT THERE BE ONLY COLLECTIVE MANPOWER CEILINGS. HE SAID "SOME DELEGATES" HAD BEEN DISCUSSING POSSIBILITY THAT NATIONAL CEILINGS MIGHT BE AVOIDED IN A FIRST REDUCTION AGREEMENT IF THE FRG WOULD AGREE TO REDUCTIONS IN SUCH AN AGREEMENT. KHLESTOV SAID THIS WAS NOT AN OFFICIAL IDEA, BUT HE WOULD LIKE MY VIEWS.

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3. I SAID I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MORE PRODUCTIVE TO SEEK PROGRESS THROUGH A DISCUSSION OF DATA AND DEFINITION

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OF GROUND FORCES, POINTING OUT THAT WEST HAD INDICATED
WILLINGNESS TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION OBJECTIVE EVIDENCE
THAT ITS DATA ON EASTERN FORCES WAS INCORRECT.

4. KHLESTOV ASKED WHETHER A DATA DISCUSSION WOULD INCLUDE
AIR FORCES AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS. I SAID THAT WE WOULD BE
WILLING TO EXCHANGE DATA ON AIR MANPOWER BUT THAT WE
CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT THE TALKS SHOULD FOCUS ON
GROUND FORCES.

5. KHLESTOV REFERRED TO US WRITINGS WHICH INDICATED THAT THE
US HAD MORE TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE THAN WAS
NECESSARY AND WHICH ADVOCATED REDUCTIONS. I REPLIED I WAS
AWARE OF THESE WRITINGS BUT THAT THEY DID NOT REPRESENT
GOVERNMENT POLICY.

6. KHLESTOV THEN REFERRED TO THE FACT THAT THE WEST
HAD REJECTED THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL PARTLY ON
THE GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD RESULT IN NATIONAL CEILINGS
FOR THE DURATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID HE
THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE A COLLECTIVE
CEILING FOR THE TERM OF THE FREEZE AND ASKED IF WESTERN
REACTION WOULD BE MORE FAVORABLE TO A FREEZE ON THIS
BASIS. I REPLIED THAT THE ALLIES WERE NOT INTERESTED IN
A FREEZE PRIOR TO REACHING AN ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT ON
REDUCTIONS BUT WOULD PUT A COLLECTIVE MANPOWER FREEZE
INTO EFFECT FROM THE DATE OF SUCH AGREEMENT.

7. WITH RESPECT TO THE PROSPECTIVE END-OF-ROUND PRESS CONFERENCES,
KHLESTOV EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD NOT BE
TOO PESSIMISTIC LESS THIS PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF THOSE
PERSONS ON EACH SIDE WHO OPPOSED THE NEGOTIATIONS.
I COMMENTED THAT THE WEST PLANNED TO INDICATE THAT IT
WAS NOT PESSIMISTIC ABOUT REACHING AN EVENTUAL AGREEMENT.

8. KHLESTOV EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THERE WERE PERSONS
IN THE US WHO WERE URGING THE US TO ADOPT A HARDER LINE
WITH RESPECT TO DETENTE IN VIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, PARTICULARLY IN INDOCHINA. HE SAID
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HE THOUGHT THAT SUCH PERSONS EXAGGERATED THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THAT
IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THIS ATTITUDE NOT INTERFERE
WITH ATTEMPTS TO MAKE PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.
WITH RESPECT TO PORTUGAL, HE ASSERTED THAT THERE HAD
BEEN NO EXTERNAL INFLUENCE.

9. KHLESTOV REITERATED SEVERAL TIMES THE IMPORTANCE
OF THE VIENNA TALKS AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF DELEGATION HEADS TO
FIND WAY OF MAKING PROGRESS.RESOR

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